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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 313040

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, OVIP, MOPS, RW US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA AND SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
DISCUSS PEACE PROCESS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD
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REF: KIGALI 03586

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. IN THEIR OCTOBER 8 MEETING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER CONGRATULATED RWANDAN PRESIDENT JUVENAL HABYARIMANA FOR REACHING A PEACE ACCORD WITH THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) AND EXPRESSED OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S RECENT RESOLUTION APPROVING A PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN RWANDA. HABYARIMANA THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND SAID THAT HE HOPED FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF THE UN FORCE SO THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS COULD GO FORWARD THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD BELGIUM,

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TUNISIA, MOROCCO ALGERIA AND EGYPT WERE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TROOPS TO THE UN FORCE AND HE HOPED FRANCE COULD BE ADDED TO THE LIST TO PROVIDE MORE "BALANCE". HABYARIMANA OUTLINED THE COUNTRY'S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AND ASKED FOR U.S. HELP IN RESOLVING RWANDA'S ECONOMIC

PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO ITS STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM. THE SECRETARY REAFFIRMED OUR DESIRE TO ASSIST RWANDA TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN CURRENT FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS. END SUMMARY

3. DURING HIS PRIVATE WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA MET WITH SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON OCTOBER 8 TO THANK THE U.S. FOR ITS SUPPORT IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND TO DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR RWANDA. HABYARIMANA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF PLANNING

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AUGUSTIN NGIRABATWARE, RWANDAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ALOYS UWIMANA, AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS JEAN-MARIE MVULIRWENANDE AND MONIQUE MUKAMANZI ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE A/S MOOSE AND NOTE-TAKER RWANDA DESKOFF AISTON.

U.S. HAILS PEACE ACCORD; HABYARIMANA EXPRESSES THANKS

4. THE SECRETARY OPENED THE MEETING BY CONGRATULATING HABYARIMANA AND THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT FOR ENTERING INTO A PEACE ACCORD WITH THE RPF. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SHOWN GREAT COURAGE IN MAKING PEACE WITH THE REBELS AND SAID THAT THE SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE RWANDAN PEOPLE. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED OUR GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION WITH THE RECENT UN SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE AND ADDED THAT WE HOPE THE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION CAN BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN HELPING TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS.

5. HABYARIMANA SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE GOR AND RPF HAD MANAGED TO REACH A PEACE ACCORD AFTER THREE YEARS OF WAR. HE THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS SUPPORT IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN THE ARUSHA PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PEACE ACCORD IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP ON A VERY LONG JOURNEY TOWARD LASTING PEACE. THE ACCORDS MUST NOW BE IMPLEMENTED, AND HABYARIMANA ASKED FOR CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT IN THE CRUCIAL IMPLEMENTATION PHASE.

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WOULD LIKE FRENCH PARTICIPATION TO PROVIDE "BALANCE"

6. HABYARIMANA EMPHASIZED THAT UN PEACEKEEPERS WERE NEEDED TO HELP ENSURE SECURITY FOR THE FORMATION OF THE BROAD-BASED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND FOR DEMOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF THE TWO ARMIES. HE SAID THAT THE GOR

WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE APPROVING THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEPLOYMENT OCCUR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS CAN BEGIN. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH BHOUTROS GHALI AND WAS TOLD THAT IT WOULD TAKE A WEEK OR TWO TO DEPLOY THE UN COMMAND AND PERHAPS ONE AND ONE-HALF TO TWO MONTHS TO DEPLOY THE FIRST BATTALION TO KIGALI. HABYARIMANA NOTED THAT THE RWANDANS HAD ALREADY DESIGNATED A PRIME MINISTER FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE TRANSITIONAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE READY TO OPERATE AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY PEACEKEEPING FORCE ARRIVED.

7. THE SECRETARY ASKED WHICH COUNTRIES WOULD BE CONTRIBUTING TROOPS TO THE UN FORCE. HABYARIMANA REPLIED THAT THE UN DID NOT YET HAVE A DEFINITIVE LIST OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES; HOWEVER. THE SYG'S INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SUGGESTED THAT BELGIUM TUNISIA, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, AND EGYPT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS TO THE RWANDAN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION.

8. HABYARIMANA SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED BHOUTROS GHALI TO CONTACT THE FRENCH TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE

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INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TROOPS. BHOUTROS GHALI REPLIED THAT THE FRENCH WERE RETICENT BECAUSE OF THE RFF'S STRONG OBJECTION TO THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE IN RWANDA. HOWEVER. HABYARIMANA SAID THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL AGREED TO CONTACT THE FRENCH AFTER HABYARIMANA POINTED OUT THAT A FRENCH PRESENCE SHOULD NOT POSE A PROBLEM AS LONG AS THE FRENCH FORCES WERE PART OF A LARGER FORCE UNDER UN COMMAND. HABYARIMANA WELCOMED POSSIBLE BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UN FORCE BUT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE A "BALANCED" FORCE, HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO ASKED THE

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BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONTACT THE FRENCH ABOUT
PARTICIPATING, AND THE BELGIANS AGREED TO DO SO.

HABYARIMANA HIGHLIGHTS DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

9. THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE RWANDANS' PLANS FOR MOVING TOWARD MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. HABYARIMANA EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE CONSTITUTION WAS AMENDED IN 1991, THE COUNTRY HAS MOVED FROM A SINGLE PARTY SYSTEM TO A MULTIPARTY SYSTEM WITH SEVENTEEN DIFFERENT PARTIES. (THE PRESIDENT ADDED HALF-JOKINGLY THAT THIS NUMBER MAY HAVE RISEN IN THE SHORT TIME HE'D BEEN AWAY.) HE NOTED THAT FIVE DIFFERENT PARTIES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT CABINET AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO RULE

BY CONSENSUS IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF THE VARIOUS FACTIONS.

10. HABYARIMANA POINTED OUT THAT ONCE THE UN FORCE IS DEPLOYED, THE RPF WILL JOIN -HE GOVERNMENT AND HAVE FIVE
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MINISTERIAL FORTFOLIOS OF ITS OWN. HE ADDED THAT IT IS HOPE THIS WILL ENLARGE THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS. THE NEW BROAD-BASED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURING STABILITY AND SECURITY DURING THE TWENTY-TWO MONTHS TRANSITION. ELECTIONS ARE PLANNED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL FIRST, WITH NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SET FOR THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

RWANDANS ASK FOR HELP WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

11. HABYARIMANA SAID THAT RWANDA WOULD NEED HELP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO OVERCOME ITS SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE WAR HAD UNDERMINED THE ECONOMY AND PREVENTED THE GOR FROM MEETING THE CONDITIONS OF ITS STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM (SAP), WITH MILITARY SPENDING IN PARTICULAR EXCEEDING THE SAP TARGETS. THE COUNTRY FACES A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY, AND HABYARIMANA SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE WORLD BANK AND THE IMF LATER THAT SAME DAY TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS. HE HOPED THAT HE COULD PERSUADE THEM TO RELEASE CREDITS THAT ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED SO THAT RWANDA CAN SHORE UP ITS FOREIGN CURRENCY SITUATION AND BEGIN WORK ON FORMULATING ITS NEXT SAP.

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12. HABYARIMANA NOTED THAT THE WORLD BANK AND IMF WILL SOON BE SENDING A DELEGATION TO RWANDA TO WORK ON THE NEW SAP. HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE TWO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO HELP ENSURE THAT RWANDA RECEIVES THE

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ASSISTANCE IT NEEDS. HE ALSO ASKED FOR OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE UPCOMING DONORS MEETING IN PARIS ON THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR AFRICA

13. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WANT TO CONTINUE HELPING RWANDA IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, TO THE EXTENT WE CAN AND WITHIN THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS THAT WE CURRENTLY FACE. HE SAID THAT WE ARE VER HAFY WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT THE RWANDAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE SO FAR AND THAT WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP IN THE FUTURE. A/S MOOSE ADDED THAT THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT FOR HELPING RWANDA. GIVEN WHAT THE RWANDANS

HAVE ACHIEVED. HE POINTED OUT THAT WE CAN NOW GO FORWARD WITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT WERE HELD UP OR PUT ON HOLD DUE TO THE WAR AND ADDED THAT OUR SPECIAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED WOULD CONTINUE. MINISTER OF PLANNING NGIRABATWARE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO FORWARD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, BUT NOTED THAT THE GOR WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD ON A PLANNED DOLLARS 25 MILLION PROGRAM IN STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE. A/S MOOSE INDICATED THAT WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE BUT, IF WE ARE TO BE HELPFUL WE WILL NEED TO KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE GOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WORLD BANK AND IMF. THE GOR PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED ON THESE DISCUSSIONS.

CHRISTOPHER

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